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William Preston Davies

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FINAL ACTION IN THE LANGER case is not expected to be reached by the senate for some time. The adverse committee report has been placed before the senate, but there still remains the presentation of the minority report, which has not yet been completed. The case has already passed through several stages. First, upon receipt of the petition of protest it was decided that Mr. Langer should be seated "without prejudice," pending investigation of the charges. Then the senate committee examined the complaint to determine whether further action would be warranted. Further investigation being deemed desirable, a sub-committee was appointed to collect evidence bearing on the case. The committee visited North Dakota, took testimony and reported, and the main committee then held hearings in Washington and examined witnesses for and against Langer. The report that has just been presented is approved by 13 of the 17 committee members. Senator Nye of North Dakota did not participate. The other three members will presently submit their minority report recommending that Langer be seated. The whole case will then be before the senate for final disposal.



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of the committee to concur in a report so sweeping and uncompromising in its character as that which has just been presented. The case would have been relatively easy if there had been involved merely questions of legal form and procedure, but to dissect a man's personal character as unsparingly as has been done in this report cannot have been a pleasant task.

\* \* \*

WINSTON CHURCHILL HAS been given a vote of confidence by the British parliament by a vote of 464 to 1. It had been expected that Churchill would be endorsed by an overwhelming majority, hence the vote occasioned no surprise. The war has not been going well for Britain. Reverses here and there have prompted criticism of the government. Churchill met that criticism in a characteristic way. He demanded a vote of confidence, and in making that demand assumed personal responsibility for all that has occurred, offering no excuses and making no promises.

\* \* \*

WHEN THE CRITICS WERE confronted with the choice of endorsing Churchill or turning the government over to somebody else there was no question of what their answer would be. There is no one in sight to take Churchill's place. He will carry on, without disguising the bleakness of the prospect immediately ahead, but by his stubborn, dogged tenacity inspiring confidence which could never be inspired by an apologetic, temporising attitude.

\* \* \*

LANGER CONTENTS THAT having been seated he is now unconditionally a member of the senate, and that he can be excluded only by a vote of expulsion, which requires a two-thirds vote. The committee holds that he was seated conditionally, and that his official status is actually that of a person who has not yet been seated, therefore a bare majority will be sufficient to bar him.

\* \* \*

DURING THE MONTHS THAT this case has been pending the Herald has refrained from comment on its merits, preferring to reserve comment until the evidence is in, the arguments are made, and the decision is rendered. But apart from the merits of the case itself, one cannot fail to be impressed by the difficult nature of the task presented to the committee which has had charge. For a year Mr. Langer has been at least tentatively a member of the senate, mingling with the other senators and participating in their deliberations. It cannot have been a pleasant task for the thirteen senators who constitute the majority

AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN CONSIDERABLE number have landed in northern Ireland, and President de Valera of Eire has protested. His may be regarded as a "token" protest, intended to maintain intact his conception of a united Ireland. When negotiations were under way for the creation of what was known as the Irish Free State, the northern counties refused to participate, and a compromise was effected. Southern Ireland became the Free State, and the northern counties retained connection with Britain under a form of federal union. Although de Valera and his associates have accepted this as a working basis for the time being they have never waived their claim on Northern Ireland as, of right a part of the Irish republic. The United States government, of course, accepts the legally established status of Northern Ireland as a separate unit under the jurisdiction of Great Britain, and de Valera's protest is a means of serving notice that Eire waives none of its claims.

DURING THE WAR BETWEEN JAPAN and Russia, in which the Japanese characteristically attacked the Russian fleet without declaration of war and without warning, most of the land engagements took place in Manchuria. The main front was up in the direction of Harbin. Foreign correspondents wishing to reach the front were shown every possible courtesy by the Japanese authorities, who wished to make a favorable impression. A special train was provided for the correspondents, and it was fitted up with everything that could be thought of for their comfort and convenience. Anxious to please, the Japanese asked their guests if everything was to their liking, or if anything had been overlooked. An American correspondent said facetiously, but with a sober face, that he could think of nothing that had been omitted except a grand piano. Forthwith a grand piano was installed by the literal-minded Japanese.



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SOME WRITER THE OTHER DAY expressed the hope that the authority conferred on Donald Nelson, newly appointed war industries czar, would be "hog-tight." Many of those expressions which have come down to us from former years have little meaning for current readers. "Hog-tight" is one of them. It dates back to the days of rail fences, which were mostly of the "snake" variety. On small farms, intensively cultivated, it was necessary that animals should stay where they were put. A fence had to be of considerable height or an active horse would jump over it. It had to be strongly built or a bull would crash through it. And the lower part had to be tight or hogs would work their way through it. Hence the perfect fence was described as being "horse-high, bull-strong and hog-tight."

I DON'T REMEMBER THAT ANY SIMILAR term was used to indicate that a fence was proof against sheep. Sheep gave little trouble when their pastures were enclosed in an ordinary rail fence, but in the timbered country of my boyhood stump fences were often used. Enormous stumps, extracted from the ground, sometimes by hand, and sometimes with the aid of machines operating on the jackscrew principle, were trimmed of their spreading roots and laid side by side to form a fence, with the flat root part on one side and the short section of trunk on the other. Such fences, when well built, were proof against horses, cattle

and hogs, but sheep would climb them as a goat climbs a mountain peak. Hence it was necessary to trim the fence with a rail or two running along the top.

ONCE UPON A TIME A FARMER was puzzled by the performance of a pig that persisted in getting into his garden, although the place was enclosed by a fence that seemed perfectly tight. Unable to find a chink through which a pig could go, the farmer watched. At the base of one section of the fence was a large hollow log with the open butt on the side where the pig had a right to be. Several feet farther on was the stub of a big branch, also hollow, with the opening toward the garden. All the pig had to do was to crawl through.

TO TEST THE PIG'S MENTALITY, instead of closing the opening the farmer rolled the log over with the branch opening on the near side, and then watched to see what would happen. The pig came along entered the log and then came out through the branch on the same side on which he had entered. "Hrrumph" grunted the pig, looking around with a surprised air. He tried it again, with a like result, and again, until the farmer lost count, and then went off in disgust.

E. A. ARHART RECENTLY RECEIVED a letter from an English firm engaged in the manufacture of fine chinaware which has sold its product to Mr. Arhart for years. The company reports that despite the war and its attendant bombings it has continued in business without interruption, and that it has not missed making a single shipment to its customers in the United States. While there have been some losses, these have not exceeded .05 per cent.

ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO I QUOT-  
ed excerpts from a Hawaiian letter sent to  
relatives by Paul H. Townsley, a brother  
of Mrs. H. E. French, who is chief of  
staff of civilian defense for the Hawaiian  
island of Kauai, where  
Mr. Townsley is also of-  
fice manager of the Oahu  
sugar plantation. That  
earlier letter described  
the reaction of the island  
population to the Japa-  
nese raid of December 7,  
and of the preparations  
made for defense. In a  
letter dated January 3  
Mr. Townsley tells of the  
progress of defense prepa-  
rations and describes  
some of the ways in  
which war conditions  
have affected island life. Some excerpts  
from the later letter follow:



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\* \* \*

"WE HAVE SETTLED DOWN TO A  
long grind and have our work so laid out  
that most men donate four hours a day  
to defense work. My job is to be in  
charge of all civilian defense work at  
night, but I only stay at headquarters  
until 9 or 10 o'clock and then go to bed.  
If anything comes up I am called, so my  
sleep is often disturbed.

\* \* \*

"WE HAD OUR FIRST TASTE OF  
real war on December 30. A Jap ship,  
probably a submarine, fired about 15  
shots from a six-inch gun into the har-  
bor. Fortunately most of the shells were  
duds and failed to explode, so there were  
no casualties and no damage. As we live  
only a few hundred yards from the har-  
bor we were a little disturbed.

\* \* \*

"IT IS HARD TO SETTLE DOWN TO  
plantation work and many of my men  
have been drafted or are mixed up in  
civilian defense work, so we are much be-  
hind. The blackout is still in effect, so  
we cannot do much at night. Gasoline is  
rationed and only official cars are allowed  
on the roads at night, so the family stays  
at home and listens to the radio in the  
dark. The only time I have seen them  
for four weeks is at meals. Schools are  
still closed, though there is talk of open-  
ing them on a limited basis soon . . . We  
are having another room in the house  
blackout so we will have a comfort-  
able place to spend the evenings. Food is  
plentiful although certain items of im-  
ported food are out, such as butter, or-  
anges, potatoes, etc. We get air mail daily,  
but no boats. We are fortunate in having  
an exceptional army man as commanding  
officer. Under military law he is absolute  
dictator of the islands. All civil govern-  
ment functions are suspended, even the  
courts, so he has quite a job on his hands.  
With the wrong type of man on the job  
it might be very uncomfortable for us."

\* \* \*

MR. TOWNSLEY TELLS OF THE  
manner in which the life of the islands  
has been changed by the war. Members  
of his family, as of other civilian families,  
devote much of their time to defense  
work, driving Red Cross trucks, assisting  
in hospital work, etc. "No one crabs," he  
writes, "and everyone wants to help. An

interesting thing is that no one here is  
scared, but they are all mad as hell."

\* \* \*

ACCOMPANYING MR. TOWNSLEY'S  
letter is a printed list of persons in  
charge of the several departments of de-  
fense work on the island. In all there are  
several hundred of these. The variety of  
names represented is suggestive of the  
racial mixture which is one of the fea-  
tures of Hawaii. Many of the names are  
clearly Anglo-Saxon, some are obviously  
Irish or Scottish, a few seem to be Ger-  
man. Then here are such names as "Kau-  
lukou," undoubtedly native Hawaiian,  
some Chinese, and a liberal sprinkling of  
names undoubtedly Japanese. Regardless  
of racial origin all of those whose names  
are listed are charged with responsibil-  
ities for maintaining order, looking after  
supplies or other important work relat-  
ing to community life.

\* \* \*

A COPY OF THE COMMERCIAL  
West, business magazine of Minneapolis,  
contains an article giving a summary of  
the Greater North Dakota Association's  
article on the resources of North Dakota  
and an account of the state's agricultural  
and commercial development in 1941. Lib-  
eral quotations from the association's  
story are given, with appreciative com-  
ment. The Commercial West is a maga-  
zine of excellent standing and wide cir-  
culation. The publication of this article in  
a periodical of its class should do much  
to correct some erroneous notions that  
have been current concerning conditions  
in North Dakota.



WHILE REPAIRS WERE BEING made in one of the older houses on Belmont road there were found in the attic several old newspapers, some of which contain articles on subjects now pretty well forgotten. One of the papers is an extra edition of the Grand Forks Evening Times of April 6, 1908, giving the results of the mayoralty election of that day. George E. Duis, then serving his second term as mayor, was a candidate for a third term and was opposed by Dr. J. D. Taylor. The contest was an unusually animated one, even for those days. Taylor was elected by a majority of 150 in a total vote of 2,198, which was then considered a heavy vote.



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IN THE SAME COLLECTION IS A copy of the Herald of April 8, 1908. Among the items in that issue is a dispatch from Washington recording that an appropriation bill carrying an appropriation for the navy for the ensuing two years of \$103,967,518 had been reported in the house. Of this amount a little over 17 millions were for construction work in progress and to be contracted for during the year. Compared with present figures that looks like a lot of small change.

ADMIRAL ROBLEY D. EVANS, WHO, as a captain, brought the battleship Oregon around the Horn to take part in naval operations against Spain, was at the point of death in California. It was Evans who, as Cervera's ships were being sunk off Santiago and some of his men began to cheer, admonished them: "Don't cheer, boys. The poor devils are dying." It was also Evans to whom Kipling addressed the lines beginning "Zogbaum draws with a pencil, and I do things with a pen, but you stand up in a conning tower and boss a thousand men."

GEORGE HAKENSCHMIDT, WHO had come out second best in a wrestling match with Frank Gotch in Chicago, was about to leave for London for a match with Zybsco. He complained that he had been unfairly treated in Chicago and accused Gotch of dirty tactics.

NEWSPAPERS OF 30-ODD YEARS ago went in more or less deeply for art. The front page of that old number of the Herald carries pen portraits of George F. Thacker and Robert Hughes, then, as now, proprietors of the Union Commercial college, and in spite of the fact that the pictures are foreshortened and otherwise dolled up, the portraits are still recognizable.

THE YEAR 1908 WAS MARKED BY the holding of the last state conventions to be held in the state before the primary election law went into effect. In April of that year Republican politicians were planning for the state convention which was to be held at Minot, and there was the usual line-up for and against McKenzie. Senator Hansbrough, whose term was

about to expire, had fallen out of McKenzie's good graces and was left with nowhere to go, and M. N. Johnson, representative in congress almost from the beginning of statehood, was elected to succeed him.

THAT OLD COPY OF THE HERALD contains a dispatch from Albany telling of the defeat in the New York legislature of a bill withdrawing the protection of race-track gambling that had been given in a measure passed in 1905 and of the disappointment of Governor Hughes with that result. Charles Evans Hughes had conducted an investigation of life insurance so ably that he had been made governor because of his work. Later he was appointed a justice of the federal supreme court, resigned to accept the Republican presidential nomination in 1916, and was almost elected, became secretary of state and served with distinction, was appointed chief justice of the supreme court, and retired last year, leaving a record of honor and ability seldom equaled.

A CORRESPONDENT WRITES OF A conversation overheard at the postoffice window where automobile stamps were being sold. One purchaser crabbed about the new tax wondering what would be next. Another, who came here from Poland, said: "I am glad I can buy stamps. It's a lot easier than going to fight, but if they want me I'll be glad to do that, too."

\* \* \*

ONE OF THE MAGAZINES has a large advertisement offering a pocket adding machine which is said to be capable of doing almost anything that can be done with figures. Among other things, it makes calculations up to 1,000,000,000. I'm not interested. The capacity of the thing is too limited. In these stirring days there is no time to fiddle around with mere hundreds of millions. They'll have to add several more ciphers.

\* \* \*

A GRAFTON CORRESPONDENT NOTICED a paragraph in this column concerning the effort being made by a former University student now in New York to convince the people there that Senator Nye does not represent North Dakota sentiment. The correspondent incloses a sheet from the Grafton News and Times containing a page advertisement addressed to Senator Nye. The advertisement is headed "Berlin appreciates your work, Senator Nye, but we don't. In the text Senator Nye is severely criticized for the position that he has taken on foreign affairs. The advertisement is signed by 10 of Grafton's prominent citizens.

\* \* \*

THE DAKOTA REPUBLICAN, OF Vermillion, South Dakota, has a column entitled "Turnip Jelly," whose columnist signs himself "B. H." Cogitating on the hazards that are encountered in ordinary domestic life the writer told this tragic tale, which surely merits some sort of prize for word-twisting:

\* \* \*

The billy goat had chased her and  
Her heart was all a-flutter;  
She fled into the pantry, where  
I saw the peanut butter,  
And as she fell upon the floor  
The savage cabbage cutter.

Then straight in through the kitchen door  
I saw the syrup pitcher.  
As bleeding from the cut she lay,  
She let the wire stitcher.

I saw the pepper shaker then,  
I watched the soda cracker,  
And as she struggled to her feet  
I saw a carp-et tackler.

She screamed and tried to run away;  
I saw the pencil holder,  
And as she struggled in its grasp  
The temperature grew colder.

But if she took a backward step  
She'd feel the oil burner,  
So toward the yawning icebox door  
She let the pancake turner.



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She feared the frigid cave inside  
But feared the nutmeg grater;  
She leaped into its open mouth  
And the refrigerator.

\* \* \*

IN MANY COMMUNITIES MERCHANTS are cutting down their deliveries as a means for conserving tires, gasoline and wear and tear on delivery trucks. Generally fewer deliveries per day are made. In some cases several merchants group their deliveries and have one delivery rig serve where three or four have been used in the past.

\* \* \*

MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT the waste of energy that characterizes the modern delivery system. One milk wagon will stop and leave a single bottle of milk at one house in a block. Another comes and leaves a bottle at another house. It may take six rigs to serve the people in that block with milk when one rig could do the whole job. The grocery rig trails the drygoods delivery and the drycleaner's outfit follows the hardware delivery.

\* \* \*

MANY EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE to systematize the work of delivery, but without much success. Years ago the late A. G. Sorlie, afterward governor, started a general delivery service in Grand Forks, doing all the delivery work for quite a number of business places. He had the work well organized, and his wagons — horse-drawn — made regular trips on schedule to all parts of the city. The plan looked promising, but for some reason it didn't work to the satisfaction of the participants, and it was abandoned. Similar plans have been tried in other cities, and abandoned. Perhaps some are in successful operation. I don't know about that.

IN A LETTER FROM TARZANA, Calif., Fred Rerick sends regards, as usual, to old friends in Grand Forks. For several years Fred has operated an oil station at Tarzana, which is a suburb of Los Angeles. He maintains contact with the numerous former North Dakotans who live in that vicinity. The entire valley, he writes, was plunged in grief by the death of Carole Lombard, who was greatly loved by her California neighbors.

\* \* \*

REMEMBERING HIS residence in Grand Forks Fred contributes the following to a column in the Valley Times: "You keep harping back on your newspaper experiences in the early days in some back-woods (?) settlement in Iowa. Who do you think cares? I do; because I also was in the game, for one year (over 50 years ago) when a boy of 14, but did not stick. I was a "printers devil" on the Grand Forks Herald, Grand Forks, N. D. and in that time learned to set type (old style) and even read some proof, and "pied" one form taking it to the press room—only delayed the paper four hours—you know what that meant.—At one time I had two paper routes, morning and evening and never missed a trip on either paper in 5 years. We had to fold our own papers in those days, taking turns in getting the first 50 off the press, which were quite "green" (inky to you). If you print any more of your early experiences on a newspaper I will come back with another—So help me."

\* \* \*

I NOTICE WE ARE HAVING WOMEN wrestlers now. I suppose the idea is to inject a certain degree of refinement into the sport. Refinement is a great thing.

\* \* \*

A STORY WHICH HAS COME TO ME second or third hand may remind some of the older commercial travelers of what country hotels were like in the long ago. On one of the Great Northern branch lines the daily train left the main line in the afternoon and spent the night at the terminal near the border. The conductor of that train was an accommodating fellow who usually knew what passengers would be coming south with him in the morning and he made it a point to see that they were all on board before he started. One morning in bitter cold weather he had the engineer blow the whistle loud and long as a warning that it was time to leave. But when several minutes had elapsed one man was missing. His friends said they knew that he intended to take the train, and he must have overslept at



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the hotel. After repeated blasts of the whistle the missing man was seen running from the hotel, coat flying, vest unbuttoned with an overcoat over one arm. In the other hand he clutched, and waved, a hotel bedroom pitcher. When he got his breath after climbing aboard the train he explained that on retiring he had dropped his false teeth into the pitcher of water, there being no glass in the room. In the morning water and teeth were frozen solid, and after trying in vain to break the ice he had brought the pitcher along to thaw out.

\* \* \*

SOME OF THE OLD COUNTRY hotels were fearful and wonderful places, unheated, with bedding rarely changed, and lacking the simplest conveniences. It may be news to some readers that in North Dakota we have a law on the statute books regulating the length of hotel bed sheets. I don't think it has ever been repealed. That law, with others prescribing regulations for the conduct of hotels, became the subject of much hilarious comment by people in search of what they considered freak legislation. Actually those laws did much to raise hotel standards and contributed greatly to the health and comfort of the army of traveling men who made the smaller towns. The average country hotel of today is a vastly different place from that of a generation ago.

\* \* \*

MY ATTENTION HAS BEEN CALLED to an error in one of the usually correct Haskins answers on the editorial page of the Herald. In answer to a question Haskin replied:

"Income tax returns are figured on the calendar year 1941. If a person married at any time during the year, even on December 31, he and his wife can claim a joint exemption, or if he makes a separate return he can claim an exemption because of his wife."

\* \* \*

THE WRITER OF THE ABOVE MAY have had the correct idea in his mind, but the form of statement is misleading. The man who married during the year can claim a married man's exemption only for that portion of the year during which he was married. For the rest of the year his exemption will be that of a single man. The statement of the treasury department on this point, issued with tax blanks, is very clear. It reads:

"If taxpayer's status, with respect to personal exemption and credit for dependents, changed during the taxable year, such exemption and credit shall be apportioned according to the number of months before and after such change. A fractional part of a month shall be disregarded unless it exceeds half a month, when it shall be considered a month."



THE SATURDAY EVENING Post says that "Woodrow Wilson's majestic vision of one irresistible force to keep the peace of mankind



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—the American Monroe doctrine to be the law of the whole world 'with a righteous concert of power to enforce it—was rejected by the American people in the afterlight. They had been inclined to it, but the more they thought of it the more they

feared it. Also, there had been time to become disillusioned."

\* \* \*

THE POST REFERS, OF COURSE, to Wilson's plan for a League of Nations, and to the fact that the United States did not participate in the working out of that plan. The Post revives the ancient legend that the American people rejected that plan, a legend which has been repeated so often that it has become accepted as fact by a great many persons who ought to know better. Probably the falsehood has been so widely circulated that the truth can never overtake it, but the fact is that the American people never rejected the League of Nations, in principle or in method.

\* \* \*

ON NO OTHER SUBJECT OF major importance before the American people was there ever such evidence of unanimity in the League of Nations, and at no time while the issue was alive was there evidence of appreciable change of sentiment. American membership in the League was defeated by the personal malice and political antagonism of a few United States senators, and the League weakened and disintegrated largely because it lacked the worldwide scope which participation of the United States would have given it. Repetition of those facts may not serve any useful purpose just now, but one derives some satisfaction from repeating them.

\* \* \*

UP TO LAST DECEMBER 7 OUR isolationists were telling us that if we had not dipped into affairs on the other side of the Pacific we should have had no trouble with Japan. All that was necessary was for us to stay at home and mind our own business. Just now the isolationists are not saying much, but undoubtedly we shall hear from them later on. We shall be told, presumably, that because of the meddlesome policy of the United States Japan was driven to take measures of self defense.

\* \* \*

FOR YEARS JAPAN HAS BEEN fortifying the Pacific islands, in vio-

ation of the conditions under which she accepted guardianship of them. She has used those islands as bases for attack on the United States. If the United States had paid no attention to Japanese aggression on the other side of the Pacific is it to be supposed that Japan would have refrained from still further strengthening her position in the Pacific. And if we had dismantled Pearl Harbor and retired to our own continental area, Japan would not have hesitated to seize Hawaii in order to clinch her control of the entire Pacific. The entire Pacific commerce of the United States would then have been subject to such conditions as Japan might see fit to impose.

\* \* \*

IT IS NOT EASY FOR THE INHABITANTS of any particular locality to see this war for the single gigantic conflict that it is. Residents of the Pacific seaboard have constantly before them the prospect of Japanese raids on their cities, and to them the removal of the Japanese menace is likely to seem the thing of immediate importance. Those along the Atlantic coast see Hitler sinking their ships and they have visions of their cities being bombed. Australians wonder why reinforcements are not hurried to prevent invasion of their country by Japan. We whose eyes are fixed on the struggles in the Philippines and the Indies have sometimes wondered why Russia does not declare war on Japan and attack her from the north. In Great Britain, where great armies await action, some are wondering why invasion of Germany is not undertaken forthwith.

\* \* \*

BECAUSE OF THE FAR-FLUNG scope of the British empire those at the head of the British government are in a better position to see the war in perspective than are most others and to understand the instability of its equilibrium. British forces have been withdrawn from north Africa to aid in the defense of Singapore and adjacent territory. Because of that withdrawal the British are being driven back for the second time from advanced positions which they had twice captured, and again British lines of communication through the Mediterranean are menaced. Russia could turn loose her forces on Japan and create a diversion most helpful to the Allies, but any weakening of Russian lines in Europe would enable Hitler to consolidate his position and prepare for a spring offensive on a grand scale. The whole situation is delicately balanced and extremely sensitive to change in any particular area. The one thing that seems certain is that there is a hard struggle ahead of us.



NOW THE CLOCKS HAVE BEEN turned forward and things are happening an hour earlier than they did, except sunrise and sunset, and a few things like that, which are an hour later, by the clock. In



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order that children may not have to go to school in the dark, Williston's city fathers have moved the city from the central to the mountain time zone, so that the people can comply with the daylight saving law and still leave their clocks untouched. I had supposed that the matter of time zones was regulated by state law, and not by local ordinance. Some years ago the North Dakota legislature enacted that all territory to the western state line should be in the central zone, but that didn't prove satisfactory, so the line was moved back to the Missouri river.

\* \* \*

THE STANDARD TIME SYSTEM, while convenient in establishing uniformity within each zone, plays curious tricks at the border. Thus Williston, at the extreme western edge of the central zone, has regularly been half an hour ahead of sun time. By applying daylight saving Williston's time would be an hour and a half ahead of sun time. By moving across the line and adopting the daylight time of that zone Williston will still be half an hour ahead of the sun.

\* \* \*

THE WILLISTON SCHOOL BOARD didn't want the children to have to get up too early to go to school. Alternating daylight and darkness have always created embarrassment for children, regardless of daylight saving. Stevenson's little boy complained:

In winter I get up at night  
And dress by yellow candle-light.  
In summer, quite the other way,  
I have to go to bed by day.

\* \* \*

THROUGH THE CENTURIES MANY persons have regarded divisions of time with a sort of superstitious reverence, forgetting that most of our time units are inventions of man, created for his own convenience and subject to change at his pleasure. We divide the day into 24 hours because somebody, ages ago, found that division convenient, and it has suited us to continue it. There is no law in nature against a day of 10, 20 or 30 hours or an hour of 40 minutes. As recently as the late seventies, when the present system of standard time zones was proposed, sermons were preached against the plan as sacrilegious.

\* \* \*

ABOUT A DOZEN YEARS AGO LOS Angeles had an election to determine whether or not the city should adopt daylight saving. The movie people opposed it and campaigned against it so vigorously that the plan was defeated. Several of the clergy opposed the plan as being an interference with a divinely ordained institution. I don't know if anyone reminded them that it was a distinguished prelate, Pope Gregory, who ordered 10 whole days dropped from the calendar of his time and gave us the calendar which we now use.

CAVALRY IS A BRANCH OF THE armed force that has historically been mounted on horses, and it has been used for services requiring much swifter movement than could be accomplished on foot. We still have cavalry units, but most of them have been highly mechanized, and there is an idea that horses have been practically banished from the army. But horses are still used, and in great number. There is published in Washington an excellent magazine, the Cavalry Journal, which, while not an official publication, is issued by a Cavalry association of which many distinguished American soldiers are members.

\* \* \*

COPIES OF THE CAVALRY JOURNAL contain articles of numerous features of cavalry organization and operation, and while modern mechanized cavalry is given due prominence, there are many articles dealing with utilization of our old friend, the horse. Attention is directed to some of the achievements of horse-mounted cavalry on the Russian front, and it is pointed out that there are many situations in which horses may be used to advantage where movement with any other form of transport would be impossible.

\* \* \*

MY ATTENTION HAS BEEN CALLED to a feature of the new income tax law which I had not noted when comment was made a few days ago on the reply in the Haskins column to an income tax query. Under the new law the taxpayer, if his gross income is less than \$3,000, may, if he wishes, use a short form of report, which is provided. In that case his marital status as of December 31 is accepted as applying to the entire year. If he uses the other form of report, which he may do in any case and must do if his gross income exceeds \$3,000, his personal exemption will be based on the number of months during which he was married.

EMILIO AGUINALDO, WHO HEAD-  
ed the Philippine insurrection of nearly 40  
years ago, seems to have adopted the  
role of Quisling since the outbreak of war  
with Japan. While the Filipinos general-



**Davies**

ly are resisting with all  
their might Japan's inva-  
sion of their country,  
Aguinaldo calls on them  
to surrender, make peace  
with the enemy and ad-  
just themselves to the  
"new order" which Japan  
has in store for them.  
After the suppression of  
the rebellion Aguinaldo  
became reconciled to Am-  
erican occupation, which  
he seemed to consider,  
after all, the best thing  
for the country. He has  
lived quietly and taken little part in public  
affairs. Just why he has quisled at  
this time is not clear. One suspects the  
influence of flattery or intimidation on a  
character never conspicuous for strength.

\* \* \*

ON ONE OF THE RADIO QUIZ PRO-  
grams the contestants were asked to form  
a sentence containing the word "to" four  
times consecutively. It was explained that  
any of the words having the same sound  
might be used, regardless of spelling. The  
answers were not very satisfactory. I was  
reminded of the station agent who, when  
asked how long a certain train remained  
at the station, replied: "From two to two  
to two two."

\* \* \*

ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO EVI-  
dence that the two things were related,  
just a week after Japan's raid on Pearl  
Harbor the park authorities of New York  
City began demolishing the Japanese  
pavilion which was presented by the city  
of Tokyo to New York after the World's  
Fair "as a monument for peace and good  
will" between Japan and the United  
States.

\* \* \*

WHEN THE PAVILION WAS PRE-  
sented to Mayor LaGuardia on Septem-  
ber 18, 1940, the Japanese consul general  
said:

"In such a world of turmoil and unrest  
as we are confronted with these days, all  
the more precious are peace and good-  
will among nations. May this beautiful  
pavilion and garden stand in this park  
forever as a monument of our sincere as-  
pirations for peace and good-will between  
our two great nations across the Paci-  
fic."

\* \* \*

FIFTEEN MONTHS AFTER THAT JA-  
pan stealthily attacked Pearl Harbor. The  
pavilion was accepted at the urgent re-  
quest of Japanese officials and residents,  
but the park authorities say that its de-  
sign did not fit into the park scheme, and

the building was of wood, unheated and  
not permanently weatherproof, and it  
would be difficult to maintain.

\* \* \*

IT IS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT  
war sentiment in this country has invaded  
the realm of music only slightly, if at all.  
Last Saturday the Metropolitan Opera  
company of New York presented the op-  
era "Tosca," by the famous Italian com-  
poser, Puccini. Next Saturday's opera will  
be Wagner's "Tannhauser." In Grand  
Forks last Friday evening the solo part  
of one of the numbers was beautifully  
rendered in German.

\* \* \*

HITLER HAS REQUIRED THE GER-  
man people to deny themselves much of  
the world's fine music and grand litera-  
ture because of the racial or political af-  
filiations of composers or authors. It is to  
be hoped that Americans will never be  
guilty of such childish stupidity. Great  
music is great music, no matter who com-  
poses it, and regardless of the composer's  
race, color or political opinions. Surely  
we need not inflict on ourselves one of  
the needless privations of war by depriv-  
ing ourselves now of music which we  
found delightful and inspiring in time of  
peace.

\* \* \*

THERE IS A RESTAURANT IN NEW  
York which has been picketed continu-  
ously since January 19, 1939. During those  
three years pickets have marched sol-  
emnly back and forth in front of the  
place in four-hour shifts, bearing placards  
declaring the place "unfair." And patrons  
go in and out, disregarding the pickets,  
and the proprietor seems to think that  
the picketing is good advertising. Pickets  
have been changed often, new ones being  
substituted for those who have moved  
away or got other jobs, and probably none  
of the present pickets know why picket-  
ing was started three years ago.

THEY ARE ISSUING PIKE-POLES TO British home-guardsmen, and the fact has tickled the risibilities of columnists, cartoonists and a considerable share of the public. Not long ago Winston Churchill declared that the British would defend vital airfields, even if they had to do it with pikes, but that statement did not prepare the public for the news that pikes were actually being issued to some of the home guards. The weapon is a wooden staff 5 feet 4 inches long, tipped with steel. A war official says that in defense work, after the guard has attacked with grenades, and mainly at night, the pike is a handy weapon for mopping-up operations.



Davies

\* \* \*

CRITICS OF THE PLAN HAVE reaped ridicule on it, some suggesting that it should include the revival of the crossbow and the catapult. One merry-maker dropped into verse on the subject producing this jingle:

Here lies the victim of them Huns;  
He had a pike and they had guns.  
But now he ponders, gone aloft,  
Whether to blame the Huns or Croft.

The order for issuance of pikes has been attributed to Lord Croft, under-secretary of war.

\* \* \*

THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF HUNOR in the use of such antiquated weapons as pikes in this age of tanks and planes and high-powered rifles, but the thing has also its serious side. The modern bayonet is a modification of the old pike, and it has been found quite useful in certain types of combat. The medieval warrior, at least of the upper class, was encased in steel as a protection against the sword or lance of his enemy. When firearms came into use, armor was abandoned. But the modern soldier has resumed the use of metal headgear as protection against flying shrapnel and splinters. The Scots farmer who captured Rudolf Hess found his pitchfork a convenient weapon. Probably there is no weapon ever known to mankind for which use may not be found in some sort of combat. Probably the two Japanese who hurled their shoes at an approaching tank in Luzon didn't expect to stop the tank, but they wanted to throw something, and did the best they could.

\* \* \*

SOMEBODY IN CONGRESS PROPOSED General MacArthur for president. That was bound to come, sooner or later. Let a man distinguish himself in any form of activity and somebody is pretty sure to propose him for president. For all I know MacArthur would make a first class president, and for all I know, he wouldn't. He has shown himself to be a soldier of extraordinary capacity, courage and resourcefulness. Let it go at that, just now.

\* \* \*

COMPETENT SOLDIERS DO NOT always make good presidents. Grant was a great general, but the less said about his presidential administration the bet-

ter. Dewey distinguished himself as a naval commander, but when admiring friends began to boom him for president he displayed complete inaptitude for public life. Mercifully, for him, his presidential boom died a natural death. MacArthur is likely to have numerous opportunities to distinguish himself as a general before this war is over, and it is no kindness to him to begin at this time carving out a political future for him.

\* \* \*

IT APPEARS THAT IN WRITING OF the peculiar position of Williston with reference to time zones my statements were decidedly on the side of understatement. Because of its longitude Williston's regular standard time is 50-odd minutes ahead of sun time. Add an hour of daylight saving and the city would be nearly two hours ahead of the clock. No wonder they wanted to move over into the mountain zone.



ABOUT THE ONLY SATISFACTORY war news that we get is that which comes from the Russian front. MacArthur and his men are doing a magnificent job on the Bataan peninsula, but they are greatly outnumbered, fighting with their backs to the wall, and there is no way at present of getting reinforcements to them. Elsewhere in the Far East the Japanese are pushing forward, and in North Africa the British have again lost most of the ground that they gained a few months ago. On the Russian front alone the enemy continues to yield, and down in the Ukraine Marshal Timoshenko is giving an excellent account of himself. Timoshenko has usually been reported to be the son of a Bessarabian peasant, but he is now being claimed as a Welshman, or at least of Welsh ancestry.



Davies

\* \* \*

THE WESTERN MAIL, LEADING South Wales newspaper, published a portion of a letter written by Mr. John John who gives the following particulars regarding the famous general: "This will be of interest to Welsh people. Timoshenko was born in Hughesoffska (Stalino as it is now called), the same town where I was born. He is six months younger than I am. Timoshenko's father went to Russia in 1880. My father went in 1870, and after being there fourteen years, came back to Wales, ostensibly for a vacation, but really to secure technical workers for the steel works at Stalino which was then called Hughes-offska because it was founded by a Welshman named Hughes.

\* \* \*

"MANY WELSH PEOPLE WENT there to work, among them a man named Charles Jenkins. When Jenkins had been in Stalino two years, he married a Russian girl, and their eldest son was christened Timothy Jenkins (Timoshenko). Young Jenkins went to a military college in Russia, and at 23, graduated with the highest marks in strategy. During the World war number I, he was a captain in the Czar's army. Now, he is a field marshal in the Soviet army."

"His grandfather was the Reverend Caradoc (Caractacus) Jenkins, a Welsh Congregational minister of considerable note, who was also a well-known poet."

\* \* \*

TO THIS PROFESSOR H. C. ROW-

land, of the U. N. D., has made the following comment:

"Because the Russian general's name, when spoken, sounded like the Irish 'Tim O'Shenke, I have been telling people that he must be a son of that fighting nation. The foregoing came as quite a surprise to me, and it has the ring of authenticity. When I lived in South Wales, I knew several people who had worked in Hughesoffska. One of my cousins, Percy Cartwright, went out there with his wife about 1900. Several of their children were born in Russia. They returned to Wales after the Russian revolution."

\* \* \*

NOT ALL HUMAN FEELING HAS been destroyed by the war. The London Philharmonic Post believes the destruction of Queen's Hall in London more likely to have been caused by a stray incendiary than to have been the result of deliberate German marksmanship, and the paper expressed profound regret over the damage done to the Berlin opera house. Continuing, the paper says:

\* \* \*

"THE REPORT, STILL UNCONFIRMED, that more than a half of the members of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra were killed by a bomb explosion in France tells of a tragedy of the same order. Behind all the disputed claims and clashings of war some values stand invulnerable, and music is perhaps the most sure of all. The members of the Berlin Philharmonic, irrespective of the aims of their Nazi directors and of the government which treated them as a mere branch of propaganda, were devoted to the highest demands of music; they shared with us the duty and privilege of taking music to the greatest number of people. We who have entertained and been entertained by this famous orchestra cannot fail to realize that we had many things in common with these players, not least of all, as we discovered as long ago as 1936, a profound dislike and contempt for Hitler and for the anti-cultural beliefs which he fostered."



FROM MRS. D. BROWN OF BATH-gate comes a clipping from a Canadian paper containing an article on the manner in which German women are being trained for colonizing. The author, Miss Ella Preiter, who made a study on the ground of conditions under which German women live, and the article is the result of her own observations. The article has all the earmarks of authenticity, and excerpts from it are given herewith:

"At the small town of Rendsburg, out in Schleswig-Holstein, the Nazi have established three huge farms where 1,770 specially selected German girls are being trained to serve in the colonies Hitler has promised them he will acquire before 1948. The three farms, commandeered from their Danish owners, spread over several hundreds of acres. More than 20 buildings have been built and others are in process of construction. The area is like a college compound. The ages of the selected students to be trained range from 16 to 26.



Davies

"THESE GIRLS, WHEN FULLY trained will be sent to the to-be-acquired German colonies, where they will, in many instances, do men's work. Most of them are being trained to become common farm laborers, cow-tenders, milkers, wood cutters and harvesters. Beside physical training, they are being instructed in sciences and soldiering.

"I visited the place for a whole week. The enthusiasm of the 'colonists' is high and their gullibilities are really pitiable. They have been assigned to many lands and after the conquest of the world they will be journeying to their posts, where they will start a dream life.

ONE WOULD UNDERSTAND THEIR enthusiasm, and even sympathize with them if it was not for the fact that many of the promises made to them are fantastic if not childish.

"For instance, one of the matrons told me in childish simplicity that most of the girls have applied to be sent to Canada and the United States, and that very few cared to go to Mexico. When I asked her in what section in the United States they expected to establish colonies, I was told blandly that the fuehrer had selected a dozen places in the United States and Canada where Germans would be settled.

"BEING A GUEST AT THE PLACE, and posing as a mentally neutral observer, I did not press the inquiry further. But it set me thinking. Did the rulers of Nazi Germany actually harbor the thought that they will be at liberty to colonize in the United States and Canada large sections of Germans? Are they looking across the Atlantic for a 'living space' that we hear so much about. Perish the thought! The Nazis may be ruthless and barbarous, but they are not such idiots as that!

"IT IS NOT THE UNITED STATES and Canada only that are being promised to these ardent pioneers. They are to be settled in Germany's former colonies in Africa and in some sections of South America. Along with the instructions they get in farming and other manual labors incident to farming they are being trained in carpentry. I also saw many of the youthful females swinging hammers on red hot iron across a colossal anvil. In another building a class is being instructed in welding.

"WHAT ARE THE GERMAN MEN going to do while their women are doing what is considered men's work?

"Their services will be required elsewhere, near the settlements, to protect them from enemies!

"So! I thought. They will attempt to settle down in the lands of their enemies before they have definitely subdued them!

"The matron explained that they will settle in the newly-acquired colonies like the early Americans did. Did they not have to work on farms, build houses, and shoulder to shoulder with their wives, sons and daughters, fight the natives?

"The Germans had built up splendid colonies in Africa. Since they were stolen by the British and her former al-

ies they have been neglected. When the Germans return to their African possessions they will be ready to put them in order again. When the German colonies are given back women will for some time work side by side with the men.

"IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE Nazi regime the Germans had a slogan—the equivalent of 'woman's place is at home'—today it is completely forgotten. Among all the 1,770 girls between the ages of 16 and 26 I did not see one girl with a girlish figure. I found them all hard faced and shapeless. While the Germans are pretending to emulate the example of early American pioneers they have overlooked the fact that the women folks of the early Americans were women, even while they were sharing the hardships of their menfolks.

"ANOTHER TRAGIC FEATURE OF the German farm-school is that there is no provision for moral and spiritual training. The head matron told me rather unashamed, that there was not a single Bible in the whole place. Once a Lutheran minister came accompanied by a Catholic priest and asked permission to hold services. The devils in their white collars were ordered off the grounds, said the matron relishingly.

"Cultural training is also absent. Among the 50 odd books in the farm-school library there is not one book that is not written by a Nazi worshipper.

"These modern pioneers, without God and culture of the spiritual brand, dream of the days when they will possess earthly pleasures in Africa and the Americas!"

AS MISS PREITER WRITES, THE Nazi authorities know better than to think of "colonizing" the United States, but the women to whom this training is given may be expected to credit statements to that effect which are made to them. But it is apparent from the facts cited by this writer as well as those GAL 2—THAT REMINDS ME . . . . . which come from other sources, that the objective of Nazi leadership is to reduce the plain people to the level of mere animal existence, with no thought beyond that of contributing to the brute strength of the power which has seized control of the nation and seeks to exercise similar control over the world.

FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE come the following lines:

"When the prairies snuggle down beneath the snowflakes,  
And the trees in silver stars stand beauty-lined,  
In North Dakota's winter-land of wonder.  
Rare etchings of the Master's touch I find."

JAMES M. LANDIS, NEW CHIEF of civilian defense, has announced that he has under way a lot of housecleaning to prepare the country against physical attack by the enemy. Referring to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who has been associated with Mayor LaGuardia of New York in direction of defense activities, Landis said that Mrs. Roosevelt is thoroughly reorganizing her department and he hoped that she would remain until the work is completed. Does that mean that the First Lady is to be quietly eliminated in the near future? Let us hope.



Davies

\* \* \*

ABOUT THE ONLY CHEERING news that has come from the Pacific and Far Eastern war area of late is in the navy's report on the American raid on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands, and that comes two weeks after the event. Earlier reports had indicated that the raid was successful, but the recent and more detailed report is such as to give increased satisfaction in a situation in which there is little that is pleasant from the standpoint of the United Nations. Not only were many Japanese ships destroyed or crippled in that operation, but air bases which have been of great value to the enemy were thoroughly wrecked. From those bases the Japanese had commanded the line of communication from Hawaii to the Orient. The engagement was, in fact, a major victory for the United States.

\* \* \*

ENMITY OF MITCHELL HEPburn, premier of Ontario, for Premier Mackenzie King of the dominion of Canada led the Ontario premier to make some ill-natured and tactless remarks with reference to the American navy in the Pacific. Premier King is in close collaboration with the government of the United States on war activities in which both nations are vitally interested. Hepburn is against whatever King is for, and in a local election campaign he attacked his enemy over the shoulder of the United States. The candidate whom Hepburn supported was defeated, which may or may not be significant.

\* \* \*

ONE OF FORD'S BIG PLANTS has resumed operations after having been shut down for four days. Thousands of workmen walked out because the union disapproved of the management's attitude in a squabble

which arose when one workman struck another. Thus, over a petty quarrel, precious time was lost and essential production was delayed at a time when American soldiers, sailors and airmen are dying because weapons cannot be got to them fast enough. Nero fiddling while Rome burned is cited as the classic and extreme illustration of selfish absorption in inconsequentials when vital issues are at stake. But we have innumerable examples today of failure to put first things first.

\* \* \*

CONGRESSMEN BURDICK AND Robertson have declared themselves opposed to the pension of congressmen, a stand which is to their credit. The chances are that the pension provision, which seems to have been slipped quietly into the law, will be repealed. There never was any excuse for it. A man should be elected to congress because of the respect which his constituents have for his character and their confidence in his ability and sound judgment. One effect of the pension law as it applies to the congressman would be to inject into his campaign for re-election the plea of sympathy and to substitute that for legitimate considerations. A member of congress ought to be able to provide for his own old-age insurance.

\* \* \*

THIS IS A CONGRESSIONAL election year. Terms of one-third of the senators and of all the house members will expire, and most of these, as usual, will be candidates for re-election. The chairman of the Democratic national committee put his foot in it when he urged, in effect, the election of Democratic candidates just because they are Democratic, with the inference, at least, that only in that way can the war be won. The chairman seems to have forgotten what resulted from the making of a similar ill-advised appeal by President Wilson in 1918. There was then, as now, legitimate criticism of many Republicans for opposing and obstructing merely on partisan grounds. But when the president himself adopted the tactics of narrow partisanship the reaction was instantaneous and striking. The Democrats lost control of congress. Some Republicans—too many of them—have been ruled by partisan rather than public considerations in the present crisis, but the evil will not be cured by plunging the nation into a mad scramble for political preferment to the exclusion of graver matters. To those who in these times emphasize the element of purely party politics the words of Mercutio are apt: "A plague o' both your houses"

"LET'S LOOK AT THE RECORD" IS a familiar saying of Al Smith's. It isn't a bad idea to keep in pretty close contact with the record. Neglect of that precaution led me to attribute to Admiral Robley D. Evans some things that did not belong to him. Captain (Bob) Evans was a conspicuous figure in the Spanish-American war, and many stories were told of his achievements and of acts illustrating his rugged character. Commenting recently on his illness, and trusting to a memory that slips quite often, I said that Captain Evans brought the Oregon around the Horn,



Davies

and that it was he who checked the sailors from cheering as the Spanish ships sank in battle. The following letter from Forbes Robertson, formerly of Inkster, and now Presbyterian pastor at Union City, Indiana, straightens out the tangles:

\* \* \*

"BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN READING lately the history of the Spanish-American war, using several different sources, including some of the magazines published at the time when the war was news and not history, your reference in your column, THAT REMINDS ME, (Feb-

ruary 5), to Admiral Evans was of interest.

"If you will check my statements I think you will agree that the record shows those facts: (1) Robley D. Evans (Fighting Bob) commanded the U. S. A. IOWA at the naval engagement off Santiago, July 3, 1898; (2) the commander of the U. S. S. OREGON on her famous run from Puget Sound, round the Horn, to Jupiter Inlet, Florida, and also during the battle on July 3, was Captain Clark; (3) at the same engagement the U. S. S. TEXAS was commanded by Captain Philip.

\* \* \*

"THE INCIDENT REFERRED TO IN your column seems to be ascribed to Captain Philip. Col. Henry (Marse) Watterson, of the COURIER-JOURNAL, Louisville, Ky., wrote a history of the Spanish-American war; the copy I have was published in October, 1898. On page 301 he describes the incident as follows.

"When the TEXAS had riddled the the OQUENDO and the Spanish colors came down, to be followed by a great explosion that marked her ruin, the crew of the American started to cheer.

"'Don't cheer, boys,' cried Captain Philip; 'the poor devils are dying.' And the cheers were silenced on the very lips of the conquerors."

\* \* \*

THE BOYS IN THE BARBER SHOP have been discussing dates and facts of early Grand Forks history, and being unable to decide several important matters they have appealed for help. There have been propounded the following questions:

When was the Young block built?

When was the present Red River National bank block built? One fellow says in 1897 and another in 1889. Who were the owners, and who was the contractor?

Do you remember the two lions they had in a cage there?

What was the name of the man who was killed on that building?

\* \* \*

I SUPPOSE A SEARCH OF THE OLD files of the Herald would reveal the answers to all those questions, but the job would take hours and hours, and I am appealing, therefore, to those, if any, who may have personal recollection of the facts. Offhand, I should date the bank building (formerly St. John block) as of 1889 rather than 1887, but I can't vouch for it.

I hope someone will supply information that will get all this straightened out. No birth certificates or affidavits will be required.



SOME WEEKS AGO I MADE A REQUEST for the source of a quotation for which I had searched, but which I had been unable to find. The mail brings a postal card from New York City, signed merely "H. F." with the following concise, but complete, information:

"The passage you want occurred in a speech in the United States senate February 11, 1847 by Thomas Corwin against dismembering Mexico. He said:

"If I were a Mexican I would tell you,

"Have you not room enough in your own country to bury your dead? If you come into mine, we will greet you with bloody hands and welcome you to hospitable graves."



Davies

\* \* \*

MY THANKS TO THE CORRESPONDENT, whoever he is, for this information. Thomas Corwin, born in Kentucky, went with his parents to Ohio while a child, distinguished himself at the bar, served in the Ohio legislature and as governor of the state, and served in the national house of representatives and in the senate, and was secretary of the treasury under President Fillmore. Under Lincoln he was United States minister to Mexico, a position of unusual difficulty at that time when the wounds left by the recent war were still unhealed.

\* \* \*

LIKE MANY OTHER AMERICANS of his time Corwin was thoroughly opposed to the Mexican war, regarding it as unjustified from any standpoint. That view was shared by Lincoln, and by Grant, who held a minor command in the United States forces in that war. Corwin's declamatory outburst parallels in sentiment that of Lord Chatham, who in his historic speech in parliament in opposition to the war against the American colonies, said:

\* \* \*

"IF I WERE AN AMERICAN, AS I am an Englishman, while a foreign troop was landed in my country I never would lay down my arms—never! never! never!"

\* \* \*

FROM HIS FARM JUST ACROSS the river in Minnesota Wyman Sheppard sends this note, which students of natural history are invited to clip and paste in their scrapbooks:

\* \* \*

"WE CUT DOWN FOR FUEL A BIG

elm tree which measured 36 inches at the butt. Some of the large branches were dead, and when we sawed the first one, in the hollow we found a large raccoon. He was dead and frozen solid. We had to split the log to get him out. Probably he got killed when the tree fell. In another limb we got 20 pounds of honey, and the tree gave us three cords of fuel wood. Not so bad for one day in the wood lot. Believe it or not."

I believe it.

\* \* \*

ON MY DESK I FOUND A CLIPPING from the Herald containing the dispatch from Detroit telling of the shutdown of the Ford River Rouge plant because of a dispute over a scrap in which one employe was said to have struck a fellow worker. During the shutdown ten thousand men were idle. Attached to the clipping was the following note:

\* \* \*

"PLEASE NOTE THE ATTACHED. That is NOT the kind of guys General MacArthur's men are, thank God. A snowball fight likely would shut down the plant for the duration. That's what a namby-pamby policy of a lot of theoretical nincompoops can do.

"A few more exchanging slaps on the wrist and 'we girls' will just quit, so there! What a shame! a swift kick in the pants is what those fellows need, instead of a lot of silly fear that they might antagonize 'labor.' We need a few MacArthurs running our production."

\* \* \*

SO SAY A LOT OF US.



PAPER IS NEEDED FOR DEFENSE, millions of tons of it. Appeals are sent out from Washington for conservation of paper. Merchants are no longer able to obtain their usual supplies of flat paper and paper bags in which to wrap up parcels. Newspapers must presently reduce their number of pages. Householders are asked to save waste paper instead of burning it and Boy Scouts are collecting great quantities of it that it may be processed and put into forms useful in various ways for the armed forces of the nation.



Davies

WHILE THIS LAUDABLE WORK OF conservation is going on porches and front doorsteps continue to be littered with circulars, handbills and odds and ends of paper which the wind picks up, whirls about, and deposits in shrubbery, to be covered with snow and dirt, raked up in the spring and destroyed. There is such a thing as practicing economy at the source, but in the matter of paper this seems to have been overlooked.

THE ANNUAL NORTH DAKOTA picnic at Los Angeles seems to have been a success. There were present some 300 persons from Grand Forks county, and proportionate numbers from other counties of the state. Such a gathering is impressive as indicating the manner in which California has drawn on the population of this state. Many of those at the picnic, of course, were winter visitors, but a large proportion had become permanent residents of California. It is taxing the ability of North Dakota to keep California supplied with good people.

MAKERS OF ALMANACS AND OTHER rule-of-thumb weather forecasters predict warm or cold weather, heavy snow, and so forth, for particular dates. And almost always they hit, for the world is large and somewhere over its widespread surface there is weather of every kind all the time. Thus, while North Dakota has had an almost snowless winter up to date, sections of the east are heavily covered with snow. A letter just received from a southern Ontario friend says that section is buried in snow more deeply than for many years. A newspaper picture of a country scene near Toronto shows stalled cars almost buried in great drifts. Thus the forecaster who predicted either much or little snow could point with pride to his prediction.

MRS. SAM FARLOW, FORMERLY Roberta Thompson of Rolla, now of Thief River Falls, had two brothers in the former World war. Her sister now has two sons in the present war, with a third about to enter. Her intense interest

in everything pertaining to the war is therefore easy to understand. During the former war she received from her older brother, Lincoln Thompson, then in France, some verses which he had clipped from an American paper. The lines express appropriately something of the sentiment felt by the young soldier at the front for the "kid sister" at home. The verses, authorship unknown, are as follows:

\* \* \*

#### TO THE KID SISTER.

You were only a kid, little sister,  
When I started over the sea,  
But you've grown quite a lot since I came here,  
And you've written a letter to me,  
And nobody knows that you wrote it—  
It's a secret—and we'll keep it well,  
Your brother and you and the ocean,  
And nobody's going to tell.

You were only a tot when I left you.  
I remember I bade you goodbye  
And kissed you, a little bit flustered,  
And you promised you never would cry,  
But I know that you cried, little sister,  
As soon as I'd gone out the door,  
And did I cry myself? I'm a soldier,  
So don't ask me anything more.

I think of you often, kid sister—  
You're the only kid sister I've got—  
I know you'll be good to your mother,  
And I know that you'll help her a lot.  
And whenever she seems to be gloomy,  
You've just got to cheer her somehow.  
You were only a kid to your brother,  
But you're more than the world to him now.

WE THINK OF MOATS, WHEN WE think of them at all, as ditches surrounding castles and filled with water, so as to prevent, or check enemy approach. Some investigator says that while this was the primary use of the moat, it had another use. In time of war the moat was filled with water and used as intended, but when peace prevailed, the moat was drained and used as a tennis court.

\* \* \*

SOME OF THE forts at San Juan, Porto Rico, are well on to 400 years old. Each is protected by its moat, an excavation a dozen feet deep and perhaps 50 feet wide. Those forts would be of no use now against the guns of a battleship, and the moats have been drained for generations. Grass has grown on their walls and bottom, and through the years the earth has become covered with thick turf which is kept neatly cut. At one fort, as possibly at others, the moat is included in a modern golf course and forms one of the hazards. Porto Rico had a long period of comparative peace, but one wonders if in the generally disturbed conditions that prevailed in the middle ages there was time enough to dry out a moat and play a game of bowls in it. Some day, perhaps, people will be wondering if in these present times, there was time enough between wars to do anything peaceful.

\* \* \*

NOT THAT ALL GAMES ARE PEACEFUL. Take croquet, seemingly as innocent a game as ever was played. And who hasn't known of croquet players attacking each other with mallets? There are other games, quite innocent in appearance. Just now ordinary playing cards are admissible in practically every kind of society. But it was not always so. There was a time when playing cards were considered by many good persons to be instruments of Satan. But they played flinch, and pit, and a lot of games with other cards. And I've seen more angry passion displayed over a game of flinch than I ever saw at a game of Euchre or pedro. I'm told that they get quite warmed up over bridge sometimes. I wouldn't know about that. My card education never reached that game.

\* \* \*

MRS. CARRIE S. WORKING, 215 North Seventh street, writes from Carmi, Illinois, where she is visiting her son Win and his wife:

"I visited the room in an old building, formerly the Ratcliff hotel, where Lincoln stayed as a young lawyer several times. The hotel was built in 1828. The room, now a storeroom, still has the original fireplace and mantel.

\* \* \*

IN A HOME IN CARMi OCCUPIED by two women descendants of the pioneer owners I saw two four-poster beds more than 100 years old, still in use. The house was built in 1816 and the old original fireplace is still in use for heating, although there is also a more modern one.

The old andirons crane and tongs are still in their places. The women bake and cook in the old fireplace just for fun. There are many remarkable antiques, including a candle lamp with a chimney like our old-fashioned kerosene lamp chimneys only it is about 2½ feet high.

\* \* \*

THE OLD HUGE LOCK IS STILL ON the front door and is opened with a brass key about eight inches long. The door also has the old knocker. The builder of the house was John M. Robinson, early Illinois congressman and colleague of Webster, Clay, Calhoun, Douglas and Lincoln, either in congress or as a lawyer. The women, both ladies of culture, have letter written Robinson by Clay and Lincoln. He was a close friend of Van Buren and when that early president died the family sent the Robinsons an oil painting of Van Buren which now hangs in the old house. Although the house is a veritable museum, the women give little thought to public interest, although they greatly appreciate their possessions themselves.

\* \* \*

CARMi IS MODERN IN A BUSINESS way. About two years ago an oil boom started and now this county (White) has 1200 producing wells. Leases have made many farmers rich on royalties. There is a woman here, Miss Hattie Clark, who taught in Grand Forks in 1887. She boarded with a Greenleaf family and remembers the Cliffords and of course J. Nelson Kelly. She is a native of this community and spent 10 years in Africa as a Congregational missionary after her year at Grand Forks. Win met a brother of P. R. Fields here. He told him that when they were boys on the farm near Enfield, not far from Carmi, P. R. told his father one day he had a chance to work for a machinery firm and thought he might some day get \$60 a month. The father was doubtful but agreed to the venture."

THEY MADE A TEST IN NEW YORK

the other day to see whether the fire on the Normandie could have been started accidentally. The conditions which existed on the ship at the point where the welder was at work were reproduced, with the pile of inflammable material close by. The torch was applied, sparks flew and the kapok took fire. Verdict: It could have been done that way.

\* \* \*

SO, DOUBTLESS, IT could be demonstrated that if one were to shoot firecrackers in a room where a lot of gunpowder was lying around loose an explosion might follow. It's nice to have these things definitely established. However, in the case of the Normandie the demonstration was scarcely necessary. It has been quite generally understood that kapok and canvas are inflammable, and that where welding is being done sparks are likely to fly. The thing in which there is particular interest just now is how and why, and under whose authority, or lack of it, welding was permitted within a few feet of those dangerously inflammable materials.

\* \* \*

WHEN I PASSED ON TO THE PUBLIC the series of questions concerning building operations and other matters in the early history of Grand Forks which were propounded by the barber shop group I was pretty certain that I would hear from someone who had the facts or part of them. I was right about that. Walter A. Canniff, who has collected a great store of information about early Grand Forks, supplies the following:

\* \* \*

"IN REGARD TO THE DATES OF the building of the St. Johns block and the Young block I have the following information. I referred to the city directory of 1890 and this appears in the preface "Nor has Grand Forks exhausted her resources by the phenomenal growth of 1890, there are already planned for 1891 the St. Johns block of brick and stone, 5 story, to cost \$80,000." Art Turner was one of the contractors, and a man by the name of Singoff was killed on the job. I got this last information from Larry O'Connor.

\* \* \*

"THE PRESENT YOUNG BLOCK AT No. 2 South Third was built by Mr. O'Connor, father of Larry in 1885. The first tenant was Geo. J. Hankey who conducted the Palace Grocery. In the basement was Austin and Swensons barber shop. On the DeMers Ave. side where the present optical company is located was E. A. Ransom's drug store. They moved in November 1, 1885."

\* \* \*

MR. CANIFF ADDS THAT WHILE HE has learned of many interesting things that have occurred in Grand Forks, he has never seen or heard of two lions being kept in a building here. Perhaps someone has been spoofing the barber shop group.



Davies

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF EARLY history I must pass on a request received from a friend who would like to obtain a picture, if one is obtainable, of the first chemical fire engine ever used in Grand Forks. This friend has pictures of most of the fire-fighting apparatus that has been used in Grand Forks from the beginning, but he lacks one of the old chemical. If anyone who has such a picture will let me know I will pass the information on.

\* \* \*

I WONDER WHOSE BRILLIANT idea it was to start the singing of advertisements over the radio. And I wonder what are the feelings of those who do the singing as they melodize and harmonize the merits of chewing gum, soap, and what have you. If I had an article for sale I don't think I should care to have it associated in the public mind with anything ridiculous. But maybe those people know their business.

\* \* \*

MR. HASKINS INFORMS AN INQUIRER of the interesting scientific fact that an owl's eyes are fixed in its head and the bird must turn its head to see objects at a different angle. I learned that when I was a small boy. I was told, also, that if an owl is perched on a stump and a small boy will walk slowly round and round the stump in one direction the owl will follow him with its eyes until it twists its own head off. I never doubted that, it seemed so reasonable. But although I tried it many times I never quite made it work. I have circumnavigated owls on stumps until I became dizzy, but always the owl had greater staying power than I had. Owls must have very elastic necks, it seems.



IN AN ARTICLE IN THE NEW York Times Anne O'Hare McCormick, brilliant correspondent of that paper, gives utterance to a thought which may be useful in shaping our attitudes toward this war and its problems. She stresses the importance of concentrating all our powers on winning a war in which we are associated with many other groups whose immediate purposes are identical with ours. Among



Davies

those groups, she says, there must be the highest possible degree of unity and co-operation, and to achieve the grand purpose everything must be avoided which will tend toward disunity. There have been errors in many places, it is pointed out, and some of those errors have had tragic consequences, but it will serve no good purpose for one group to cast aspersions on another. "Perhaps it is fortunate," she says, "that there is blame enough to go around."

\* \* \*

I LIKE THAT SENTENCE. IT recalls another, uttered nineteen hundred years ago: "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone." Specifically, neither we nor the British have conducted our share of the war so efficiently that there is occasion for either to cast stones at the other. Each of us can better employ our energy in trying to correct our own mistakes.

\* \* \*

CHURCHILL IS REORGANIZING his cabinet, under pressure. He is a stubborn man, conscious of his own ability, and undoubtedly convinced that he can direct the operations of the war more successfully if given a free hand than if required to share responsibility with others. But the British public, angered and dismayed by reverses, would not have it that way. Churchill is still their idol, but they insist that he try new men and new methods, and Churchill has yielded.

\* \* \*

SENATOR NYE JOINED WITH four others in voting against repeal of the congressional pension measure. Seldom has there been such an outpouring of denunciation as that which followed the adoption of that pension provision. There is strong sentiment against classifying elected legislative representatives of the people with those whose tenure of office and conditions of service are fixed under civil service rules. But in this case popular resentment was directed not so much against the provision itself as against the attempt made to put over such a provision in a time of national emergency such as the present. We denounce, and quite properly, the busi-

ness racketeer who seeks to make use of the war emergency to line his own pocket, regardless of the welfare of the nation, and there was violent resentment against what has been characterized the same kind of racketeering in congress.

\* \* \*

SENATOR DOWNEY, OF CALIFORNIA, of "ham and egg" fame, proposed to increase federal pensions to the aged from the maximum of \$20 a month to \$30, and he was promptly squelched. Not only did Mr. Downey propose this increase, but he would have had it made without any state contribution, and to all who were certified by the states as being in need. A blind man could see what would be the effect of such an arrangement. The more persons were certified the more money would be brought into a state. There would be the familiar argument that if our state didn't get the money other states would. How popular would the state administration be which refused to certify any applicant, so long as the federal government would foot the bill and it wouldn't cost the state's taxpayers a cent?

\* \* \*

MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH government which collapsed in 1940 and generals of the French army that went to pieces, are on trial for various alleged crimes and misdemeanors, the substance of which is that the authorities caused or permitted France to enter the war, knowing that the nation was utterly unprepared. The trial is a political one, the intent being to find scapegoats upon whom responsibility for French disasters can be fixed. The accused men have been imprisoned for months, and it is taken for granted that they will be convicted, as the trial court has been organized for that specific purpose. The proceedings will be marked by political speeches addressed to the general public rather than to the court itself.

\* \* \*

FRENCH COURT PROCEDURE is quite different from that in the United States and Great Britain. Under the legal system in vogue in these two countries the accused person is legally considered innocent until he is affirmatively proven guilty. Under the Roman law, on which French law is based, the accused is considered guilty until he proves his innocence. While our courts in general observe scrupulously the principle of legal innocence until guilt is proven, many of our bureaus and commissions seem to have adopted the concept of French-Roman law. Let an employer, for instance, be haled before one of those boards on whatever kind of accusation, and he is immediately judged guilty, and even when he proves his innocence his proof is dismissed as having no bearing on the case.



NEW YORK CITY FACES THE POSSIBILITY of a water shortage, not because of priorities or anything else related to the war, but because not enough rain has fallen to fill the reservoirs to more than 40 per cent of their capacity. Water in the city is not rationed, nor is its use restricted at present, but users are urged to avoid waste. The water department will not be satisfied until the reservoirs are not merely full, but overflowing.

\* \* \*

NEXT THING, IT'S vitamins that are to be rationed. They need them for the war. Restrictions are to be placed on the vitamins that may be put up in pills and capsules, and this just as we were becoming accustomed to the idea of having our daily vitamins served in little pellets with our oatmeal or coffee. If they're going to mess around with them that way I shall continue to take my vitamins in steak, potatoes and other foods into which a fellow can set his teeth. Anyway after all, what's the use of living a year or two longer if one has to spend the extra time in counting vitamins and things?

\* \* \*

SENATOR JAMES J. DAVIS OF Pennsylvania has announced himself a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor of his state. If he should be elected a curious situation will exist. His term as senator does not expire for two years, but he need not resign in order to run for governor. If he is elected he can resign his senatorship just in time to be sworn in as governor. Then as governor he can appoint his own successor to the senate. A man who has a governorship and a senatorship in his hand at the same time is sitting rather pretty.

\* \* \*

JOSEPH STALIN HAS BEEN CHOSEN the outstanding warrior of 1941 by the Red Men of America and has been named an honorary chieftain. That action was taken by chiefs of the Indian tribes of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Central America. Chief Stalin, having other important engagements, was unable to be present at the ceremony, which was held in New York, but he was represented by a member of the Russian embassy. A war bonnet which is being prepared for him will be forwarded to Moscow.

\* \* \*

CHINA'S NEW YEAR'S DAY WAS celebrated on February 15 wherever there were Chinese groups to celebrate it. According to the Chinese calendar this anniversary marked the beginning of China's 4639th year which makes all other nations mere infants. According to Archbishop's computation China would thus date back about to the time of Noah, which is a long way back.



Davies

IN THE CELEBRATION CEREMONIES, which were carried out in old style, children were given presents by their parents, which should popularize the day. The Chinese "dragon" occupied a conspicuous place in the parades, but Chinese authorities wish it understood that what is popularly known as a dragon is a "fighting lion," which seems an appropriate emblem for the nation which has been doing such magnificent fighting. And China is a peaceful nation, too.

\* \* \*

AMONG THE BITS OF WAR PUBLICITY being circulated in Canada is a card issued by a Winnipeg insurance company bearing a charming portrait of Queen Elizabeth, reproduced from a photograph taken while the king and queen were in Winnipeg in the summer of 1939, with the following tribute to the queen from the Chicago Tribune, written by Mary Adams Winter:

#### TO QUEEN ELIZABETH.

London Bridge is falling down,  
Falling down, falling down,  
My Fair Lady.

Be it said to your renown  
That you wore your gayest gown  
And bravest smile

AND STAYED IN TOWN  
While London Bridge  
Was falling down, falling down,  
My Fair Lady.

WAR TIME IS A TIME OF EMOTION-  
al stress, productive of patriotic exalta-  
tion, grief, hope, despair, each in degree  
far beyond that which characterizes the  
even tenor of life when there is no danger  
against which to guard  
and no enemy in sight.  
Sentiments aroused by  
war seek expression, oft-  
en in verse, and every  
war period is productive  
of an immense volume of  
compositions which the  
writers believe, often  
mistakenly, to be poetry.  
Occasionally one such  
composition has literary  
merit, but the exceptions  
are few and far between.  
Writing lines that jingle  
is an exercise, not very  
difficult, and which may be beneficial to  
the writer, but getting those compositions  
printed is something else. If the news-  
papers should print all that are offered  
them they wouldn't have room for much  
else. This column receives its share of  
amateur verse, and as the war progresses  
the volume of "poetry" increases. Because  
not all of it can be published, and because  
the task of selecting is a thankless job,  
and wearing on the nerves, I earnestly  
request my friends NOT to send me any  
more original verses. Offerings will be  
returned if accompanied by self-addressed  
stamped envelopes.



Davies

\* \* \*

MRS. R. M. WOOD OF ARVILLA,  
wishes to obtain complete copies of two  
old songs of which she recalls only parts.  
The first stanza of one begins:

Columbia, my land,  
All hail the glad day  
When first to thy strand  
Home pointed the way.

The other song desired begins:  
The flag of our country, we see,  
As it floats far above us on high,  
It has left the dull earth and to heaven it  
soars,

To gather the hues of the sky.

Probably somebody's scrapbook will  
yield complete copies.

\* \* \*

MRS. CLIFFORD L. MASTRE OF  
Grafton sends a clipping containing a  
summary of conditions in England as  
presented by an unknown English pastor.  
The lines, which crossed the ocean and  
were published in a Michigan paper, have  
found their way here by that roundabout  
route, and are now reproduced as follows:

WE HAVE BEEN A PLEASURE-  
loving people, dishonoring God's  
day, picnicking and bathing—  
Now the seashores are barred; no  
picnics; no bathing.  
We have preferred motor-travel to  
church-going—  
Now there is a shortage of motor fuel.  
We have ignored the ringing of  
church bells calling us to worship—  
Now the bells cannot ring except to  
warn of invasion.  
We have left the churches half empty  
when they should have been filled  
with worshippers—  
Now they are in ruins.  
We would not listen to the ways of  
peace—  
Now we are forced to listen to the  
ways of war.  
The money we would not give to the  
Lord's work  
Now is taken from us in taxes and  
higher prices.  
The food for which we forgot to give  
thanks  
Now is unobtainable.  
The service we refused to give to God  
Now is conscripted for the country.  
Lives we refused to live under God's  
control  
Now are under the nation's control.  
Nights we would not spend in  
"Watching unto prayer"—  
Now are spent in anxious air raid  
precautions.  
AMERICA BEWARE!

\* \* \*

THE PASTOR WHO COMPOSED THE  
above may be of the "straight laced" type,  
emphasizing more than most others do  
the forms of worship and of Sabbath ob-  
servance. But when due allowance is made  
for views which may seem antiquated,  
the fact remains that many of the things  
that have seemed permanent and altogeth-  
er desirable have disappeared from the  
lives of millions. Unless there is some-  
thing more enduring than the things that  
vanish, life itself is scarcely worth while.



SOMEONE IN THAT "BARBER shop" group the other day wanted to know about two lions that once were kept in some building in Grand Forks. I couldn't remember anything of the sort, but Paul Norman has come to the rescue with the suggestion that the lions meant were the two that were displayed in showcases, the one in front of the Lion drug store, and the other in front of Platky's. The animals, of course, were effegies made of papier mache or some other plastic material. Platky's, on part of the site now occupied by Penney's was one of the leading dress goods stores in Grand Forks. The Lion drug store, near by, was operated by J. H. Vold until the store was removed a few years ago to its present location on DeMers avenue.



Davies

WHILE HE KNOWS OF NO LIVE lions that were kept in Grand Forks, Mr. Norman recalls that for several years a live bear was kept chained in the space behind the Rhinehart hardware store, which was on Third street, just about opposite Trepaniers. Then there was Tom McMullen's white horse, that stood outside his harness shop on lower DeMers avenue, summer and winter, year after year. It was a full-size horse, made of plaster, and mounted on casters so that it could be rolled out in the morning and in at night, and on it were displayed the latest in harness and fittings. The McMullen store was bought by the late Joseph Mahowald and the stock was later removed to the present Mahowald store.

EFFEGIES AND EMBLEMS WERE formerly displayed in front of many stores. I don't remember if a wooden Indian ever decorated the front of any Grand Forks cigar store, but there must have been one or more in the city sometime, but they were in use all over the country. Over the entrance to the shoe store usually hung a mammoth boot, and the business of the watchmaker was advertised by a suspended watch whose hands always registered about 8:20. There was for a long time a theory that the time

so registered was chosen because it was at that hour that Lincoln was shot. It must have been at a later hour that the shot that killed Lincoln was fired, although I have no record of the time at hand. The view which, I think, has become accepted, is that the hands of the displayed watch were given their position for purpose of balance, and, that style having been originated quite naturally, it was generally followed as a matter of course.

THE SWINGING TAVERN SIGN which appears in many pictures of very early days, had been a feature of English, and probably of continental taverns for many generations. Pictures of them now appear on many Christmas cards. One of their characteristics was that they squeaked. I can remember a few of them, suspended in brackets and free to swing with the wind. I don't suppose anyone ever thought to grease their rusty hinges, and in the lightest breeze they would squeak, squeak, squeak, night and day.

ONE OF THOSE SIGNS IN MY TOWN hung over the tavern of a man named Excell. On it were inscribed the words: "This sign is high, and hinders none; Refresh and pay, then travel on." Quite sensible and to the point.

EXCELL WAS JUST SUCH A CHARACTER as one finds in Dickens, and a part of his establishment might have been taken right out of the Old Curiosity Shop. The barroom was a plain room, with no furniture other than the bar itself and the necessary fixtures. There were no chairs, for Excell did not encourage loafing. He wanted his patrons to "refresh and pay, then travel on." He was a small man with a thin face and a humped back, and he had a biting wit that irritated and at the same time attracted customers.

EXCELL WAS BY TRADE A WATCH- maker, and he carried on that business in a room adjoining the barroom and which also opened on the street. There he had collected clocks of every imaginable type, dozens, and, it seemed to me, hundreds of them and he seemed to keep them all going and keeping correct time. And how they ticked, from the dignified tick, tock, of the grandfather clock, to the inconsequential tick-tack, tick-tack of the tiniest specimen. Also, Excell was a bird merchant. On such shelves as were not occupied by clocks, and suspended from the ceiling, were cages of parrots, canaries, love birds, and others that I can't remember. When the clocks were merely ticking the room was filled with their clatter and the twittering of birds. But when the clocks began to strike the parrots squawked, and sometimes swore, and the other birds gave voice to all the sounds they had save those of song. And through it all the old man sat, mending clocks and watches, as quietly and skillfully as if pandemonium had not broken loose around him.



THE BIGGEST ELECTRIC SIGN IN the world is being demolished. It is the chewing gum sign at Times Square in New York City, a structure more than a city block long and some ten stories high. Illuminated by many thousand lamps it is said to have consumed enough electricity to light a city of 10,000 inhabitants. The current which it has consumed will be available for war industries, and the hundreds of miles of copper wire and tons of other metals will be used in speeding up the manufacture of planes, tanks and other implements of war.



Davies

\* \* \*

THOSE BRILLIANT DISPLAYS OF lighting, of which Broadway presents the world's most striking example, are spectacular, interesting, sometimes exhilarating, but certainly not restful. And they are not intended to be restful. To enjoy a quiet hour the New Yorker turns his back on Broadway and goes elsewhere, perhaps up into Connecticut. But when he has been in the mood for the bright lights, there has been Broadway, whose glare and glitter are as satisfying to certain moods as the noise of a swing band is to others.

\* \* \*

SOME YEARS AGO THERE WAS controversy over the use of Niagara's water for industrial purposes. Those of one group held that there was no reason why all the water should not be used to turn the wheels of industry. They could see no sense in permitting any of it to be wasted falling over a precipice merely to be looked at when the thousands of horsepower could be used to produce real things immediately serviceable to the people. Those of the other group denied that the Niagara spectacle represent-

ed waste, and maintained that in ministering to the desire for beauty and majesty it performed a service as valuable and necessary as that of providing food and clothing. They pointed out, moreover, that in thousands of communities the people were using just the same kind of horsepower that others thought was being wasted at Niagara in creating fountains and waterfalls, spectacles beautiful and satisfying, but representing only a mere fraction of that which nature itself has created at Niagara.

\* \* \*

BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE OF war needs the brilliance of the great Times Square sign is to be sacrificed. Many other lights will be dimmed. Many of those are not producers of material values. Just now the energy which they represent must be used for other purposes. But the brilliance of the lighted street and the sound of music are not symptoms of wasted energy any more than is the fragrance of the flower or the song of the bird. And when the blight of war is removed from the world, we shall again draw on the bounty of nature, not merely for the material needs of the moment, but for the things of beauty and grandeur which minister to the soul itself.

\* \* \*

IN AN ARTICLE WHICH I READ the other day there were given several sample statements supposed to be those which a young man in search of a job might in presenting himself to the person from whom he sought employment. The statements ran through a long list, beginning with the blunt "I want a job," down to the one which the writer thought was the best and most convincing of the lot, and which ran about like this:

"I can point out ways in which your work can be made more efficient and your profits increased."

\* \* \*

I DON'T KNOW WHAT EXPERIENCE the author of that article had in finding employment for himself or anybody else, but my guess is that if he ever sought a job in that tone of voice he didn't get it. I think the average employer would be afraid to tackle a youth who talked to him like that.

TULIPS ARE UP, AT LEAST ONE OF them. The first tiny pale-green shoots were barely visible above the bare, black earth on Washington's birthday, which is earlier than I like. But what can one do about it? The earliest date on which any of my tulips made their appearance was on February 5, several years ago. I think their unusual earliness was due, among other things, to the fact that I had not planted them more than three inches deep. I was afraid that if they were planted deeper they would rot. Since then in replanting I have sunk them fully five inches, with good results. They do not appear quite so early, and they escape much of the freezing and thawing which would otherwise occur.



Davies

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MYSTERY to me how tulip and other bulbs survive the winter. In this climate they freeze solid, of course. Frozen that way in the open they would be destroyed, but imbedded in the soil they are subject to alternate freezing and thawing, and they seem to thrive on it. Not only this, but the growing stalks will freeze and thaw several times and still put forth bloom. However, too much of this seems to stunt them, hence if I could I should retard their growth until late March. Of course bulbs planted in the open do not start so early, but those planted in a sunny location, and near a basement wall, insist on showing themselves early.

GARDEN CATALOGUES ARE COMING. Several of them have arrived. They are fascinating publications, over which one can do a lot of delightful arm-chair gardening. Facetious references are often made to the brilliantly colored pictures of flowers, vegetables and fruits which appear in the catalogues. These are often treated as exaggerations far beyond the possibility of realization in actual practice, intended to stimulate the desires of

prospective purchasers. Actually, I have never seen a picture of a familiar garden product which has not been duplicated in size, form and color, in somebody's garden. And quite often the picture doesn't do justice to the real thing.

WAR TIME, WITH ITS RESTRICTIONS and rationing, tends to make people garden-minded. It was so in the last war, and during those years millions, I suppose, who scarcely know whether potatoes grow on trees or on climbing vines, like morning glories, acquired bits of ground, bought spades, forks and rakes, and started gardening. Many of them caught on quickly and developed the knack of making things grow. Others saw their poorly planted and ill-cultivated plants choked with weeds, and gave up gardening in disgust. Probably others will have similar experiences this time. Those to whom gardening is mere drudgery may better leave it alone. But the amateur who sees in gardening more than the mere pulling of weeds and the turning of clods, to whom it means physical invigoration and stimulation of the imagination, gardening is very much worth while.

GREAT CONCERN IS FELT OVER the morale of the American people. All sorts of devices are proposed, and some of them are being used, to make and keep us happy, cheerful, hopeful and confident. Some of those devices are of doubtful value. A stern and crabbed old fellow once got hold of a book on the value of cheerfulness and how to be cheerful—Dale Carnegie sort of stuff. He was particularly impressed by what the book said about the value of cheerful conversation. Having digested the contents of the book he spoke after this fashion to his family assembled at dinner:

"AFTER THIS WE'RE GOING TO have cheerful conversation around the table at every meal. You youngsters think some up, and if you don't come through with it I'll tear the hide off you."

I DOUBT THAT THE ANTICS OF THE cheer leader can do much to develop public morale. As a substitute, I suggest the following formula:

To build morale: Get busy.

To maintain morale: Keep busy.